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Letter dated 23 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as the representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the communiqué adopted by the 70th meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa on 12 February 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nana **Effah-Apenteng**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations
Representative of the current Chairman of the African Union

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Annex to the letter dated 23 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué of the 70th meeting of the Peace and Security Council

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 70th meeting held on 12 and 13 February 2007, considered the relations between Chad and the Sudan. In this regard, the Council received briefings from the representatives of Chad and the Sudan, as well as from the representatives of Libya, Equatorial Guinea, on behalf of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa, and the United Nations.

At the end of its deliberations, the Council decided as follows:

The Council,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the relations between Chad and the Sudan [PSC/PR/2 (LXX)], as well as the Report of the AU Fact-finding Mission to Chad and the Sudan from 21 to 27 April and from 3 to 7 June 2006, respectively;

2. **Notes** that, notwithstanding the sustained efforts deployed by the AU, CEN-SAD and the international community, the tension between Chad and the Sudan remains high and insecurity persists at their common border. Council **also notes with concern** the serious humanitarian crisis resulting from this situation;

3. **Stresses** that the situation prevailing on the ground is the result of a combination of several factors, including the existence of armed rebellions, the crisis of confidence between Chad and the Sudan and, in particular, the Darfur (Sudan) crisis, which has assumed a regional dimension, thereby affecting Chad and the Central African Republic. In this regard, Council **underscores** the need to step up efforts with a view to finding a speedy and durable solution to the crisis in Darfur, through the implementation of the phased approach for a strengthened peace support operation in Darfur, including the rapid deployment of the African Union/United Nations hybrid operation, and the re-launching of the political process in order to broaden the support base of the Darfur Peace Agreement and facilitate its implementation, in keeping with the decision taken at its 66th meeting in Abuja on 30 November 2006, which endorsed the conclusions of the High Level Consultation on the situation in Darfur held in Addis Ababa on 16 November 2006. To this effect, Council **requests** the Government of the Sudan and the other concerned parties to provide the necessary cooperation;

4. **Notes also** the importance of a coherent and holistic regional approach for promoting durable peace and stability in the region. In this regard, Council **encourages** the Commission and the relevant regional organizations, in close collaboration with the United Nations and other concerned actors, to work together with a view to organizing a regional consultation on the problems facing the region;

5. **Condemns strongly** the attacks perpetrated by armed groups against Chad and the Central African Republic, which constitute an unacceptable attempt to take over

power by force, in violation of the Lomé Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government. Council **demands** that these armed groups immediately put an end to their attacks and seek a peaceful solution for their grievances;

6. **Condemns also strongly** all the violations of the ceasefire committed in Darfur, as well as all other activities aimed at undermining the Darfur Peace Agreement;

7. **Reaffirms** its commitment to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of all the States of the region, as well as to the respect for the principles governing the relations of good neighbourliness between Member States, as enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the AU. Council **demands** that all the States of the region scrupulously comply with these principles. Council, in particular, **requests** the Sudan and Chad to take the necessary measures in order to prevent and effectively stop the utilization of their territories for the launching of activities undermining the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the other;

8. **Underscores** the need for Chad and the Sudan to scrupulously respect the commitments they have entered into, particularly those contained in the Tripoli Agreement and Declaration of 8 February 2006, as well as in the *Proces Verbal* signed in N'Djamena on 26 July 2006 and the Framework Agreement on the Normalization of Relations of Friendship and Good Neighbourliness signed in Khartoum on 28 August 2006. Council **calls** on the two countries to put in place the implementation and follow-up mechanisms provided for in the said Agreements, and to work towards their effective functioning;

9. **Commends** the Libyan Leader, Muammar Al Kaddafi, for his tireless efforts aimed at contributing to the normalization of relations between the Sudan and Chad and the restoration of security at their common border and **expresses** its support to the efforts being exerted by CEN-SAD. In this respect, Council **invites** the Commission to provide the necessary support to CEN-SAD towards the effective implementation of the commitments entered into by the Sudan and Chad;

10. **Welcomes** the initiatives taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to improve the security situation along the borders between the Sudan and Chad and between the Sudan and the Central African Republic, including through the establishment of a multi-dimensional presence, and to contribute to the implementation of the agreements concluded between the Sudan and Chad. Council, bearing in mind paragraph 12 of the decision adopted at its 63rd meeting held in New York on 20 September 2006, **urges** the United Nations Security Council to authorize as soon as possible the multi-dimensional operation envisaged in resolution 1706 (2006);

11. **Urges** the Chadian authorities to urgently engage in dialogue with all the Chadian political stakeholders, including the political and military movements, with a view to finding a consensual solution to the problems facing Chad and to consolidate the democratic process in the country. To this effect, Council **encourages** the Chairperson of the Commission and other involved actors to facilitate such a dialogue and a negotiated solution to the crisis in Chad;

12. **Recalls** its decision PSC/PR/Comm(LXVII) on the Central African Republic adopted during its 67th meeting held on 7 December 2006, endorsing the recommendations of the multi-disciplinary mission of experts which visited Bangui from 3 to 15 April 2006, and **appeals, once more**, to all AU Member States, as well

as to partner countries and institutions, to urgently provide the necessary assistance with a view to consolidating peace in the Central African Republic and facilitating the socio-economic recovery of the country;

13. **Expresses** its profound preoccupation with the serious humanitarian crisis resulting from the prevailing insecurity on the ground. Council **urgently appeals** to all AU Member States and partners to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance and **underscores** the need for the scrupulous respect for international humanitarian law, by all concerned parties;

14. **Decides** to dispatch, as soon as possible, a mission of Council to Chad, CAR and the Sudan and, if the need arises, to other countries in the region, to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the situation on the ground and identify the obstacles impeding the implementation of the agreements signed by the two countries, in particular the Tripoli Agreement, with a view to making recommendations aimed at finding a durable solution to the problems facing the region. Furthermore, Council **decides** that the report of the mission will be submitted to a meeting of Council at the appropriate level;

15. **Decides** to remain seized of the situation.